

**Greenways & Trails Council Meeting**  
**Delaware Department of Agriculture, Dover, DE**  
**May 12, 2010**  
**9:30AM**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Morrill, Chairperson, called the council meeting to order at 9:30a.m. He invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their agency.

**Approval Meeting Minutes**

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2010 minutes as written. Peggy Koster moved to approve and Jim Ireland seconded, motion passed.

**Reports**

Education & Outreach – Diane Wilson, Council Member:

- National Trails Day - June 5, 2010. This year's theme is '*Find Your Happy Place.*' Several registered events are on the Delaware Hiking Society's website. Charlie Emerson said the James Hall Trail in Newark was designated a National Recreation Trail. A representative from the National Park Service will attend the event.
- State Fair – Governor's Day, Thursday, July 29, 2010. Volunteers needed.
- Coast Day – October 3, 2010 held in Lewes at the College of Marine Studies. Volunteers needed.
- Trail Summit - October 14, 2010 at the Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach, DE. This first statewide gathering of trail users and advocates hosted by the DE Recreation Parks Society and sponsored by the Division of Parks & Recreation and the Council on Greenways & Trails. Partnering sponsors: Merit Construction, Century Engineering, National Park Service, and others. Registration is online. All Council members are automatically registered.
- State Parks and Nemours Health & Prevention Services formed a partnership targeting obese children on the Westside of Sussex County. Coordinators are John Hollis, Ron Breeding (Nemours), and Ray Bivens (DE State Parks). Participating children and families will receive day-passes and literature promoting healthy diet and exercise. Pediatricians see approximately 3000 obese children a year from this part of Sussex County.
- Going Paperless – All Council members are satisfied with receiving minutes via email.

Equestrian Community – Peggy Koster, Council Member:

- The Equine Council's mission is to promote, protect, and enhance the keeping of equine in Delaware.
- Equine Council saw some activity since last meeting. The yearly Equine directory listing all equestrian trails is in the DE State Parks web site.
- Equine Council held a 'Dinner/Dance' that raised \$5,000 towards agriculture based study scholarships. EC donated approximately \$20,000 scholarships in last 11 years.
- Ms. Koster spoke at an Expo 'Healthy Kids Day,' sponsored by Nemours at Trap Pond on April 29. Over 300 students attended. No programs planned for New Castle County at this time.
- Delaware Quarter Horse Association held their semi-annual trail ride on May 1 with 121 riders participating.
- Equine Interagency Council held quarterly meeting with State Parks, Forestry & Fish & Wildlife.
- Peggy asked that more trails be built and with Equine Council volunteer help, to open old trails at no labor/time/gas cost to Parks. Jim Ireland inquired whether sustainable trails could be built within Fish & Wildlife properties. Peggy said Fish & Wildlife has closed trails due to fire safety issues. Wider trails are needed for horses. Horse riding is permitted in some State Park beaches on certain dates and times.
- Equestrians are experiencing parking rig issues at State Parks. Signage parking areas indicating horse trailer parking is a solution. Susan will follow-up with Paul Nicholson to put signs directing horse/trailer parking.
- Ms. Wilson appreciates Ms. Koster's equestrian information to Council.

**Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland, Council Member:**

- Delaware Trail Spinners members are continuing with the Phase 2 and 3-trail development at Redd Park, Newark. In the Middle Run Valley Natural Area, the Spinners completed the installation of an 80-foot long fiberglass bridge across Middle Run creek. This project allows accessibility to site and trails, and eliminates damage impacts in-stream created by trail users crossing through the stream.
- A BBQ is planned for volunteers after the National Trails Day work in Redd Park on June 6.
- The Trail Spinners attended the National Bicycle Summit in Washington DC. Jim participated in a meeting attended by ten US Congressmen – they spoke highly on biking activities. Jim also attended the World Bicycle Summit in Richmond, VA – an educational meeting discussing urban bike/trail systems.
- Charlie Emerson said the City of Newark hired a firm to conduct an Economic Development Study that covers the city, Middle Run Natural Area & New Castle. The firm will also evaluate the economic impact of parks and regional parks.
- Newark received a bronze level bicycle friendly award.
- Trips for Kids – The Team held a meeting to discuss bringing bikes into schools as Physical Exercise (PE). New Castle cannot accommodate this project at this time.

**Bicycle Council – Mike Krumrine, Park Resource Office:**

- Bike Council meets every first Wednesday of alternate months from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at DelDOT complex, Dover, DE.
- Bike Council voted to ask the Insurance Commissioner to add bicycle awareness education in schools and Defensive Driving Classes.
- Update: St George's Bridge is adding a bike lane for completion in May 2010. Council noted that bike lane demarcations are drawn on roads but not on the bridge. Council working on getting removable bollards to separate free-flow traffic lane and bike lane on the bridge – it is a safety risk at this time. Anthony Aglio discussed signage and ways to get people to cross Route 13 road safely.
- Bike Council organized a Rolling Media Campaign to ride from South to North Delaware stopping at strategic places to spread the word about the Bicycle Summit.
- May is Bike Month - Several activities planned. May 12 - Legislative Ride from Newark to Dover; May 17 to 21 - Bike-to-Work week; May 19 - Ride to Silence memorial ride to honor bikes fatalities; May 21 - bike to work day.
- May 21 is official Bike Summit kickoff at Wilmington Grand Opera House. Governor Markell will attend. Registration includes a free dinner at an event held after.
- Dover Ride/Stride scheduled for June 5. Participants to complete 3, 5, 8 miles – registration at Silver Lake Park, Dover, DE.
- Kent County Safe Kids Day event held at Brecknock Park on June 12. Gail also suggested an event day at St. Georges Bridge

**Updates**

**Assawoman Canal Trail Concept Plan – Bob Ehemann**

State Park staff is working with the Towns of Ocean View, Bethany Beach, South Bethany, and the communities of Sea Colony, Salt Pond, Ocean Way Estates, Waterside, Collins Park and Bahamas Beach Cottages to create a Trail Concept plan for Assawoman Canal. This Working Group identified the need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities to serve the growing population. Safe, off-road facilities would provide recreational opportunities and furthermore provide alternative transportation modes, easing access among the communities. The Trail Concept plan is the first step in developing the canal as the backbone of the local system of trails and pathways. In the fall of 2009 Bob held Public workshops to gauge the public's interest and identify their concerns for a trail along the canal. Bob is drafting the Concept plan for review and public comment.

**White Clay Creek State Park Trail Plan – Dave Bartoo**

David gave a lengthy discussion with slide presentations of the proposed alignments and improvements for White Clay Creek State trail system. Three sustainable factors are observed when planning a trail - economic, social, and environmental. WCCP has a diverse landscape with the highest density of trail miles

in the parks protected areas in the state. Objectives of the plan are to design sustainable trails that reduce soil erosion; avoiding important natural and cultural resource areas; connect units of the park currently not protected; and create community connections.

David also referred to challenges experienced at Lums Pond Trails due to hydric soils (saturated soils) huge segments of trail are underwater. He does not want the same to happen to White Clay Creek. Data collected from trail users was evaluated which provided staff good information for future trail plans. The proposed plan would close unsustainable trails, construct new trail linking park units, officially designate some roads as trails, and created an all-weather surfaced trail that crosses the park from west to east and from the City of Newark to Pennsylvania.

#### Cape Henlopen State Park Trail Plan – Don Long

Don presented trail plan segments for Cape Henlopen State Park. In the winter and spring of 2010, Don and his team completed the new trail segments located predominately south of the campground adding approximately 1.5 miles of stone/fines trails. Don defined additional alignments planned for the park. He informed Council of illegal bike riding occurring in the park and the problems created by this activity.

Park staff observed evidence of mountain bikers entering the park across from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal entrance. This is not an official park entrance; thus, users have created a “social” trail. The users come in from Cape Henlopen Drive and cross the rail line and ride west of the Walking Dune area through pine duff and vegetation important for anchoring sand dunes. As the duff layer wears away, riders move to duff-covered areas widening these unofficial, legally made trails. When the duff layer is exposed, sites are prone to eroding sand. A by-product of eroding sand is potential exposure of archaeological material within the Cape Henlopen Archaeological District. Unofficial trails are 45 feet wide in places. The Division’s Trail Committee proposes not eliminate the “social” trails. AmeriCorps volunteers assisted with raking these trail corridors to close them down.

Don provided the initial evaluation for a potential trail alignment from Gordons Pond to the Transmitter Building and a reroute around the Fort Miles Complex. Due to the highly sensitive resources areas (dune fields, wetlands and archaeological sites) within the Gordons Pond region many factors need to be evaluated and assessed as part of the trail alternatives process.

#### Partnership with Nemours Health & Prevention Services – Kendall Sommers

Park Resource Office staff and the staff of Nemours Health & Prevention Services (NHPS) collaborated on the Outdoor Recreation Needs & Trends Survey – a product that informs the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Kendall distributed a NHPS published brief, entitled “Investment in Parks and Recreation is Necessary for Children’s Health.” This brief contains SCORP findings as well as data from Nemours research. The brief is available on line at

[www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/Information/Documents/2010\\_02\\_009\\_active\\_recreation\\_policy-brief-Final\\_web.pdf](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/Information/Documents/2010_02_009_active_recreation_policy-brief-Final_web.pdf). Other briefs on children’s health are available at [www.nemours.org/service/preventive/nhps/policy.html](http://www.nemours.org/service/preventive/nhps/policy.html).

#### **Announcements**

The next Council meeting on October 14, 2010 will coincide with the Trail Summit at the Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach. Council members registration is covered. Those attending please confirm with Susan Moerschel as soon as possible. Peggy Koster and Jim Ireland are panelists in one of the sessions.

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. Morrill asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Wilson motioned and Jim Ireland seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:40PM.

**Meeting Attendance**

Appointed Members

Paul Morrill, Chair  
Charles Emerson  
James Ireland  
Peggy Koster  
Diane Wilson

Agency Members & Guests

Division of Parks and Recreation Staff

David Bartoo  
Bob Ehemann  
Mike Krumrine  
Don Long  
Susan Moerschel  
Kendall Sommers  
Beth Emerson

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Rose Ryödi  
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